



I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to:  
MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: July 10, 2006

Signature: *R. A. Heppermann*

(Roger A. Heppermann)

Docket No.: 06005/37170  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:

**Michael D. APEL et al.**

Application No.: 09/871,115

Confirmation No.: 9797

Filed: May 31, 2001

Art Unit: 2182

For: INPUT/OUTPUT DEVICE WITH  
CONFIGURATION, FAULT ISOLATION  
AND REDUNDANT FAULT ASSIST  
FUNCTIONALLY

Examiner: T. Q. Nguyen

**AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

In response to the Office Action dated March 10, 2006, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 23 of this paper.